(b) Two posts of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) and 14 posts of Member (Judicial) are vacant.

(c) to (f) The vacancies of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) and Member (Judicial) were advertised in December 1992 and June 1993. Eligible candidates were interviewed in December 1993 and January 1994. Panel recommended by the Selection Committee has been approved. Offers of appointment for 2 Vice-Chairman and 11 Members have already issued and they have been requested to join by 31.8.94. Remaining offers will be issued on completion of formalities.

Operation of Luxury Tourist Trains

2225. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the plan to involve the private sector in the operation of five luxury tourists trains;

(b) which are the proposed routes of the five luxury trains and by what time the proposed luxury trains are expected to become operational; and

(c) what will be the Railway's initial expenditure on these trains and how much annual profit is expected to be earned by the Railways from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have invited bids from Public and Private Sectors for ownership; Marketing and Management of Tourist Trains on the following routes:

1. Delhi - Jaipur - Agra - Gwalior - Jhansi - Varanasi - Lucknow - Delhi.
2. Goa (Madgaon) - Mangalore - Mysore - Hospet - Bangalore - Goa (Madgoan).
3. Bombay - Aurangabad - Nanded - Secunderabad - Hyderabad - Pune - Bomba ;.
4. Howrah - Gaya - Varanasi - Gorakhpur - Bhubaneswar - Puri - Howrah.
5. Bangalore - Mysore - Madras - Kodaikanal Road - Kanya Kumari - Trivendrum - Cochin - Mettupalayam - Bangalore.

In response to the global invitation to bid issued by the Ministry of Railways; twenty three bids were received upto the closing date i.e. 25th July; 1994. The bids are now being evaluated by the Tender Committee for awarding the contract to the successful bidder. Lead time for construction and launching of the tourist trains will be one year from the date of finalisation of contract. No expenditure is being incurred by the Railways as the capital cost and cost of haulage and maintenance is to be borne by the Tourist Train Operator. Besides these costs, the successful bidders will also be required to share a minimum 15 per cent of their gross turnover from the operation of the tourist train service.

..Reduction in working expenses..

2226. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an action plan alongwith economy messures undertaken by the Railways in 1993-94 has resulted in reduction of working expenses to the tune of Rs. 200 crores during the year; and

(b) if so; the details of the measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) From 1989-90 onwards